

In The Claims:

Please replace the previously presented claim set with the following replacement claim set:

1.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a pressure sensitive adhesive in combination with a backing having first and second major surfaces, the adhesive having a rubber phase and comprising:

- (a) 100 parts by weight of a polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer;
- (b) at least one ~~midblock-compatible~~ tackifier capable of increasing the T_g of the rubber phase of the adhesive, said at least one tackifier being present in an amount sufficient to raise the calculated Fox T_g of the rubber phase of the adhesive to greater than 245°K;
- (c) 0 to about 50 parts by weight of a crosslinking agent; and
- (d) 0 to about 300 parts by weight of a plasticizer;

wherein the polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer has the formula Q_nY and comprises from about 4 to about 40 percent by weight of a polymerized monovinyl aromatic compound and from about 96 to about 60 percent by weight of polymerized conjugated diene, wherein:

- Q represents an individual arm of the block copolymer and has the formula S-B;
- n represents the number of arms Q in the block copolymer and is a whole number of at least 3; and

Y is the residue of a multifunctional coupling agent; and further wherein:

(a) S is a nonelastomeric polymer segment endblock of a polymerized monovinyl aromatic homopolymer, there being at least two different molecular weight endblocks in the copolymer, a higher molecular weight endblock and a lower molecular weight endblock, wherein:

- (i) the number average molecular weight of the higher molecular weight endblock (M_n)H is in the range of from about 5,000 to about 50,000;

(ii) the number average molecular weight of the lower molecular weight endblock (Mn)_L is in the range of from about 1,000 to about 10,000; and

(iii) the ratio (Mn)_H/(Mn)_L is at least 1.25; and

(b) B is an elastomeric polymer segment midblock which connects each arm to the residue of a multifunctional coupling agent (Y) and comprises a polymerized conjugated diene or combination of conjugated dienes; and

wherein the adhesive forms a layer on at least a portion of at least one of the major surfaces of the backing and the article exhibits a 180° peel adhesion on high density polyethylene of at least 80 N/dm.

9. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 8, wherein the backing comprises a foam.

10. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 8, wherein the backing further comprises a release surface.

11. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 8, wherein the backing comprises a foam tape comprising the same or a different polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer, and the adhesive is in the form of a layer on at least one of the major surfaces of the foam tape.

12. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 8, wherein the backing comprises an acrylic foam tape core, and the adhesive is in the form of at least one co-extruded layer on the foam tape core.

13. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a pressure sensitive adhesive in combination with a backing having first and second major surfaces, wherein the backing is in the form of a foam, at least one of the major surfaces of which is substantially smooth having an Ra value less than about 75 micrometers, as measured by laser triangulation profilometry, and the foam

comprises a plurality of microspheres, at least one of which is an expandable polymeric microsphere, the adhesive having a rubber phase and comprising:

(a) 100 parts by weight of a polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer;
(b) at least one ~~midblock-compatible~~ tackifier capable of increasing the T_g of the rubber phase of the adhesive, said at least one tackifier being present in an amount sufficient to raise the calculated Fox T_g of the rubber phase of the adhesive to greater than 245°K;

(c) 0 to about 50 parts by weight of a crosslinking agent; and

(d) 0 to about 300 parts by weight of a plasticizer;

wherein the polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer has the formula Q_nY and comprises from about 4 to about 40 percent by weight of a polymerized monovinyl aromatic compound and from about 96 to about 60 percent by weight of polymerized conjugated diene, wherein:

Q represents an individual arm of the block copolymer and has the formula S-B;

n represents the number of arms Q in the block copolymer and is a whole number of at least 3; and

Y is the residue of a multifunctional coupling agent; and further wherein:

(a) S is a nonelastomeric polymer segment endblock of a polymerized monovinyl aromatic homopolymer, there being at least two different molecular weight endblocks in the copolymer, a higher molecular weight endblock and a lower molecular weight endblock, wherein:

(i) the number average molecular weight of the higher molecular weight endblock $(M_n)_H$ is in the range of from about 5,000 to about 50,000;

(ii) the number average molecular weight of the lower molecular weight endblock $(M_n)_L$ is in the range of from about 1,000 to about 10,000; and

(iii) the ratio $(M_n)_H/(M_n)_L$ is at least 1.25; and

(b) B is an elastomeric polymer segment midblock which connects each arm to the residue of a multifunctional coupling agent (Y) and comprises a polymerized conjugated diene or combination of conjugated dienes;

wherein the adhesive forms a layer on at least a portion of at least one of the major surfaces of the backing and the article exhibits a 180° peel adhesion on high density polyethylene of at least 80 N/dm.

14.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a pressure sensitive adhesive in the form of a foam having at least one substantially smooth major surface having an Ra value less than about 75 micrometers, as measured by laser triangulation profilometry, the foam comprising a plurality of expandable polymeric microspheres in combination with at least one other polymer composition in the form of a plurality of discrete structures bonded to or embedded in the foam, and the adhesive having a rubber phase and comprising:

(a) 100 parts by weight of a polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer;

(b) at least one ~~midblock-compatible~~ tackifier capable of increasing the T_g of the rubber phase of the adhesive, said at least one tackifier being present in an amount sufficient to raise the calculated Fox T_g of the rubber phase of the adhesive to greater than 245°K;

(c) 0 to about 50 parts by weight of a crosslinking agent; and

(d) 0 to about 300 parts by weight of a plasticizer;

wherein the polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer has the formula Q_nY and comprises from about 4 to about 40 percent by weight of a polymerized monovinyl aromatic compound and from about 96 to about 60 percent by weight of polymerized conjugated diene, wherein:

Q represents an individual arm of the block copolymer and has the formula S-B;

n represents the number of arms Q in the block copolymer and is a whole number of at least 3; and

Y is the residue of a multifunctional coupling agent; and further wherein:

(a) S is a nonelastomeric polymer segment endblock of a polymerized monovinyl aromatic homopolymer, there being at least two different molecular weight endblocks in the

copolymer, a higher molecular weight endblock and a lower molecular weight endblock, wherein:

(i) the number average molecular weight of the higher molecular weight endblock (Mn)H is in the range of from about 5,000 to about 50,000;

(ii) the number average molecular weight of the lower molecular weight endblock (Mn)L is in the range of from about 1,000 to about 10,000; and

(iii) the ratio (Mn)H/(Mn)L is at least 1.25; and

(b) B is an elastomeric polymer segment midblock which connects each arm to the residue of a multifunctional coupling agent (Y) and comprises a polymerized conjugated diene or combination of conjugated dienes;

wherein the foam adhesive exhibits a 180° peel adhesion on high density polyethylene of at least 80 N/dm.

18.-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) An article according to claim 13 wherein the adhesive comprises a blend of the polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer and a second polymer suitable for melt extrusion processing.

29. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 28 wherein the polymer comprises an acrylate or methacrylate adhesive polymer or copolymer, an acrylate-insoluble polymer, an elastomer containing ultraviolet radiation-activatable groups, or a pressure sensitive or hot melt adhesive prepared from non-photopolymerizable monomers.

30. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 28 wherein the polymer comprises a copolymer of an acrylate or methacrylate monomer and a monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer.

Amendment And Response
Serial No. 10/610,950

31. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 30 wherein the monoethylenically unsaturated co-monomer comprises acrylic acid.

32. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 13 wherein the backing comprises an elastomeric block copolymer foam.

33. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 13 wherein the backing comprises a polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer foam.

34. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 13 wherein the backing comprises an acrylic foam.

35. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 13 wherein at least one adhesive layer is crosslinked.

36. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 13 wherein the article exhibits a 180° peel adhesion on high density polyethylene of at least 100 N/dm.

37. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a foam backing having first and second major surfaces and an adhesive layer on at least a portion of at least one of the major surfaces wherein the article exhibits a 180° peel adhesion on high density polyethylene of at least 80 N/dm, and at least one of the foam backing or adhesive has a rubber phase and comprises:

- (a) 100 parts by weight of a polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer;
- (b) at least one ~~midblock-compatible~~ tackifier capable of increasing the T_g of the rubber phase of the adhesive, said at least one tackifier being present in an amount sufficient to raise the calculated Fox T_g of the rubber phase to greater than 245°K;
- (c) 0 to about 50 parts by weight of a crosslinking agent; and
- (d) 0 to about 300 parts by weight of a plasticizer;

wherein the polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer has the formula Q_nY and comprises from about 4 to about 40 percent by weight of a polymerized monovinyl aromatic compound and from about 96 to about 60 percent by weight of polymerized conjugated diene, wherein:

Q represents an individual arm of the block copolymer and has the formula S-B;

n represents the number of arms Q in the block copolymer and is a whole number of at least 3; and

Y is the residue of a multifunctional coupling agent; and further wherein:

(a) S is a nonelastomeric polymer segment endblock of a polymerized monovinyl aromatic homopolymer, there being at least two different molecular weight endblocks in the copolymer, a higher molecular weight endblock and a lower molecular weight endblock, wherein:

(i) the number average molecular weight of the higher molecular weight endblock $(M_n)_H$ is in the range of from about 5,000 to about 50,000;

(ii) the number average molecular weight of the lower molecular weight endblock $(M_n)_L$ is in the range of from about 1,000 to about 10,000; and

(iii) the ratio $(M_n)_H/(M_n)_L$ is at least 1.25; and

(b) B is an elastomeric polymer segment midblock which connects each arm to the residue of a multifunctional coupling agent (Y) and comprises a polymerized conjugated diene or combination of conjugated dienes.

38. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 37 wherein the foam backing comprises polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer.

39. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 37 wherein the foam backing comprises an acrylic foam.

40. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 37 wherein at least one of the adhesive layers comprises polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer.

41. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 37 wherein at least one of the adhesive layers comprises a copolymer of an acrylate or methacrylate monomer and a monoethylenically unsaturated co-monomer.

42. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 37 wherein the foam backing or at least one adhesive layer is crosslinked.

43. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 37 wherein the foam backing and the adhesive layers on the first and second major surfaces comprise polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer.

44. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 37 wherein the adhesive layer on the first major surface comprises polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer and the adhesive layer on the second major surface comprises an acrylic adhesive.

45. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 37 wherein the article exhibits a 180° peel adhesion on high density polyethylene of at least 100 N/dm.

46. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 9 wherein the backing is co-extruded with the pressure sensitive adhesive.

47. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 8 wherein the backing comprises a foam tape comprising a polymodal asymmetric elastomeric block copolymer.

48. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 47 wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive is a layer coextruded with the backing.

Amendment And Response
Serial No. 10/610,950

49. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 44 wherein the foam backing comprises an acrylic foam.